

Pennsylvania Association of Numismatists

CLARION



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1990 P.A.N. COIN SHOW
October 5, 6, & 7
David L. Lawrence Convention Center
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania



P.A.N.

Coin Show

Annual Convention of the Pennsylvania Association of Numismatists

**October 5,6,7 1990
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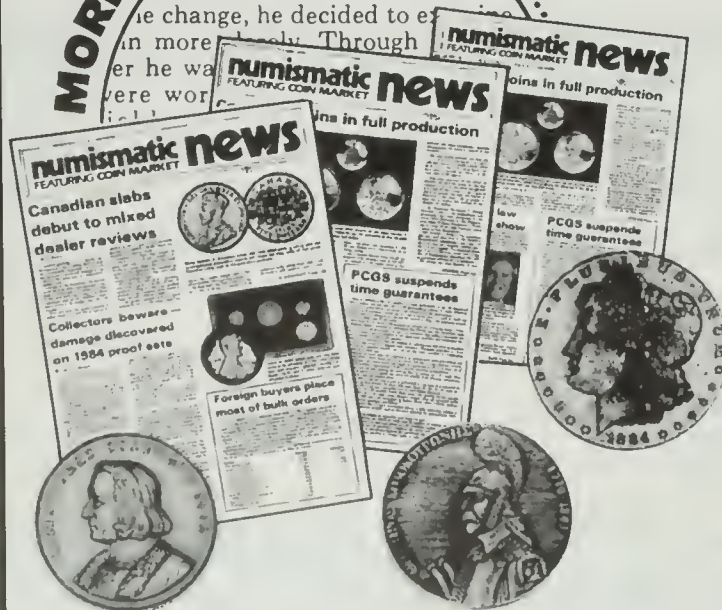
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1990 P.A.N. SHOW IN PITTSBURGH

The Pa. Assn. of Numismatists' Convention Committee is hard at work finalizing details for an outstanding 1990 Coin Show and Convention. The show will be held October 5, 6 and 7 at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center in downtown Pittsburgh -- site of last year's very successful A.N.A. Convention.

A B-I-G Show

Over 14,000 collectors attended the 1989 A.N.A. show, making it the second largest gathering ever held at the site. PAN officials are confident that the momentum generated by the A.N.A. will help make the PAN show a success also.

"We've already gotten commitments from about 50 dealers... coming from as far away as Alabama," notes Show Chairman Donald Carlucci. The committee has reached virtually every big retailer in the country with pre-show mailings, and announcements have appeared on the major teletype services. One of the recent advertisements was featured in the Westex Coin Dealer Calendar.

General Public Promos

"We're not stopping at dealer advertising," Carlucci says. "We plan to go all out to bring in the public for the show, too. And we're buying ads in all the major numismatic publications. Then, during the week of the show, we'll be advertising in the fifteen largest newspapers in the tri-state region."

PAN President Bob Matylewicz adds that several special-interest events are being scheduled to make sure there's "something for everyone" associated with numismatics.

Educational Forums

To help attract collectors of all types, special-interest club meetings are being scheduled during the show...featuring such groups as the Early American Coppers and the Numismatic Bibliomania Society. Other such gatherings will also be announced as show time nears.

"Heavy Hitters"

Carlucci also notes that the committee is firming up some big-name speakers for the Educational Forums as well as the banquet scheduled on Saturday evening. Past speakers and honored guests have included "heavy hitters" in our hobby -- such as A.N.A. Presidents Steve Taylor and Ken Hallenbeck...and former United States Mint Chief Engraver Frank Gasparro.

It's been confirmed that Anthony Swiatek will give a presentation on coin grading. Swiatek's talk at the 1989 A.N.A. Convention was one of the show's best-attended presentations.

Don't Miss Out!

This is one show that hobbyists will not want to miss. And retailers not already signed up are reminded that it's best not to wait for table space. Show applications are available from Bourse Chairman Rich Cross, P.O.Box 548, Fogelsville, PA. 18051.

The First Philadelphia Mint

By Wayne K. Homren

*Presented on April 3, 1990, to the
Western Pennsylvania Numismatic Society,
Pittsburgh, PA.*

In 1911, workmen in Philadelphia began dismantling a century-old building on Seventh Street, near the intersection of Arch. The city was bustling, and the march of progress would not be stopped by the timeworn structure, one of thousands of such construction throughout the city. The old building had once played a key role in shaping the fledgling nation. And now, it was being razed to make way for a more modern structure.

The first occupants of the building would have marveled at the remarkable changes in the nation over the years. It was constructed in 1792, when the population of the country was just 4 million. Philadelphia had just 30,000 inhabitants. The building was the first public structure erected by the government of the United States of America: The United States Mint.

Planning a Nation's Coinage

There were many good reasons for a minting facility to be given such a high priority by the new government. Sound coinage was in very short supply. Citizens and merchants were making do with a ragtag assortment of coins and tokens issued by various foreign governments, states, and private minters. Accounts were kept in the English system of pounds, shillings, and pence. The young nation desperately needed a sound monetary system on which to base its economy. It also wanted a coinage system it could call its own, for issuing coinage had been a recognized act of sovereignty for thousands of years.

In the preceeding years several proposals had been put forth for a new coinage system. Robert Morris suggested a system based on a value equivalent to one grain of silver, which resulted in the odd basal value of 1/440. Morris' denominations were called the Bit, Quint, and Mark, and these translated easily into the Spanish silver pieces so common in circulation at the time. Another proposal, put forth by Thomas Jefferson, was finally adopted. Jefferson's system was based on decimal units. The basal value was the cent or 1/100 of the dollar unit.

On March 3, 1791, Congress passed a resolution calling for the establishment of a mint. The law contained little detail, and while preparations continued, construction of the mint was delayed for several months. In his annual report on October 25, 1791, President Washington urged immediate action.

The disorders in the existing currency, and especially the scarcity of small change, a scarcity so peculiarly distressing to the poorer classes, strongly recommend the carrying into immediate effect the resolution already entered into concerning the establishment of a Mint. Measures have been taken pursuant to that resolution for procuring some of the necessary artists, together with the requisite apparatus.

On April 2nd, 1792, Congress passed more detailed legislation calling for the establishment of the Mint. The building was to be located in Philadelphia, which at the time was still the seat of the federal government. The Act spelled out the duties and salaries of the various officers of the Mint. It called for the production of the following denominations of coins:

U.S. Coin Denominations as specified in the Mint Act of April 2nd, 1792		
Metal	Denomination	Value
Gold	Eagle	\$10.00
	Half Eagle	5.00
	Quarter Eagle	2.50
Silver	Dollar or unit	1.00
	Half Dollar	.50
	Quarter Dollar	.25
	Disme	.10
	Half Disme	.05
Copper	Cent	.01
	Half Cent	.005

Building a Mint

On April 14th, 1792, President Washington appointed David Rittenhouse as the first Director of the Philadelphia Mint. Rittenhouse was one of America's most prominent scientists. Although he was 60 years old and in failing health, he accepted the task and began making the mint a reality. Two adjacent lots on Seventh Street (nos. 37 and 39) were purchased for \$4,000, along with an abutting lot at 631 Filbert Street. At the time of their purchase, the lots contained a tenement building and a vacant distillery.

Rittenhouse corresponded with Washington and Jefferson as he went about the task of building and staffing the new mint. One of the first men hired was Chief Coiner Henry Voigt. Voigt was employed only on a temporary basis. He was a skilled mechanic and watch maker. Rittenhouse continued to search for a more qualified coiner; he had his eye on Jean Pierre Droz of Paris.

The 1792 Half Disme

Although the Mint building would not be ready for occupancy until December, Rittenhouse and Voigt got on with their work in temporary facilities nearby. The first striking of coinage under the Constitution of the United States took place on July 13th, 1792, on a coin press in the basement of a saw mill at Sixth and Cherry streets. The mill was owned by John Harper, an experienced coiner who had struck New Jersey coppers in the 1780's. These first Federal coins were the 1792 Half Dismes. The dies were prepared by Robert Birch, and some have speculated that the portrait represents Martha Washington.

The coins were struck at the request of President Washington, and were probably not meant for general circulation. The silver for the coins was provided by Washington himself, and it is said to have consisted of a large setting of sterling silver tableware. About 1500 pieces were struck and delivered to Thomas Jefferson, who noted their receipt in his daily journal. He later gave the pieces to President Washington. Many of these were used as presentation pieces, given to friends in both Europe and America. Many eventually entered circulation.

The Mint Opens

Henry Voigt was put in charge of the workmen building the mint. On July 19th, they began to dismantle the old distillery. On July 30th, Rittenhouse placed the foundation stone. In celebration, he purchased punch for the workmen with a dollar derived from the sale of the distillery rubble. The work proceeded throughout the summer, and by September 7th the building was ready for the installation of its furnace and bellows.

The Mint actually consisted of several buildings, the largest of which was a double house of brick construction on Seventh Street. It stood three stories high, and was 37 feet wide. It extended back only thirty-three feet. The vaults were in the basement. On the first floor were the deposit and weighing rooms, and the press room where gold coins were struck. A dark, winding stairway connected the upper floors of offices.

Across a small paved yard was a frame house containing the horse mill for the rolling machines. There were four buildings on the back lot. The lower levels of each house contained coin presses, where most of the Mint's silver and copper coins were struck.

In 1793, a watchdog named Nero was purchased for \$3.00. He accompanied the night watchman on his hourly rounds. The watchman would ring a bell at regular intervals to let the city know its mint was safe.

Visiting the Mint

In 1893 a gentleman named George Sellers published his recollections of the first mint, which he grew up nearby, and visited as a boy in 1812.

In a rear room, facing the alley, with a large, low-down window opening into it, a fly press stood; that is a screw-coining press used for striking the old copper cents. Through this window the passersby could readily see the bare-armed vigorous men swinging the heavy end-weighted balance lever that drove the screw with sufficient force so that by the momentum of the weighted ends this quick-threaded screw had the power to impress the blank and thus coin each piece. They could see the rebound or recoil of these end weights as they struck a heavy wooden spring beam, driving the lever back to the man that worked it; they could hear the clanking of the chain that checked it at the right point to prevent its striking a man, all framing a picture very likely to leave a lasting impression...

I stood on tip-toe with my nose resting on the iron bar placed across the open window of the coining room to keep out intruders, watching the men swing the levers of the fly press; it must have been about noon, for Mr. Eckfeldt came into the room, watch in hand, and gave a signal to the men who stopped work. Seeing me peering over the bar, he took me by the arms and lifted me over it. Setting me down by the coining press, he asked me if I did not want to make a cent, at the same time stopping the men who had put on their jackets to leave the room. He put a blank planchet into my hand, showed me how to drop it in, and where to place my hand to catch it as it came out; the level and weights were swung, and I caught the penny,...but I at once dropped it. Mr. Eckfeldt laughed and asked why I dropped it. Because it was hot and I feared it would burn me.

Copper Coinage

On September 11th, 1792, Voigt made the first purchase of copper for the Mint. A total of six pounds was acquired, at the price of one shilling three pence per pound. The first coins struck for general circulation were the cents and half cents of 1793. Henry Voigt is credited with the design of the famous 1793 Chain Cents. The reverse of these coins features a circular chain representing the United States. There are two major varieties: one with "AMERICA" fully spelled out, and the other abbreviated "AMERI."

Voigt's design was greatly criticized, and production was halted after just three months. It was replaced by the Wreath cent, designed by Adam Eckfeldt. The 1793 Liberty Cap Half Cent design has also been attributed to him. Eckfeldt's Wreath Cent obverse was also the subject of criticism, and it was replaced later in 1793 by Joseph Wright's Liberty Cap design. This was the only coin ever designed by Wright, the Mint's first Chief Engraver. He was appointed in August, 1793, but died the following month of yellow fever.

Wright was succeeded by Robert Scot, an English-born engraver. Scot had been a watchmaker like Voigt, and had engraved plates for the printing of colonial paper money. Scot made the next change to the cent in 1796 when his Draped Bust design appeared.

Precious Metal Coinage

While Congress provided funds for purchasing copper, the mint had no budget for purchasing precious metal. It depended solely on deposits to provide metal for coinage. In July, 1794, the mint recorded its first deposit of precious metal. The Bank of Maryland delivered a shipment of French silver coins valued at \$80,715.735.

The production of silver coinage commenced on October 15, 1794, with the striking of America's first silver dollar. Later that year coining of half dollars and half dimes began. All three coins bore Robert Scot's Flowing Hair design. In 1795 Scot created the Draped Bust design for silver coinage.

On February 12, 1795 a Boston merchant named Moses Brown made the first deposit of gold at the mint, in the form of ingots worth \$2,276.22.

Due to failing health, Rittenhouse stepped down as Director of the Mint in June 1795. He was replaced by Henry William de Saussure of South Carolina. During de Saussure's tenure were struck the first gold coins of the Federal Government. On July 31, 1795, the Mint delivered 744 gold half eagles. These were also designed by Chief Engraver Robert Scot. By September eagles were being struck as well.

Mint Troubles

In October, 1795, Elias Boudinot of New Jersey became the third Director of the U.S. Mint. Boudinot was a Revolutionary War patriot, and a prominent lawyer. He served as a member of the Continental Congress, and signed the peace treaty with Great Britain. Boudinot served until his retirement in 1805.

One major problem confronted by Boudinot was the annual occurrence of yellow fever which affected the entire city of Philadelphia. Elaborate procedures were set up for closing, securing, and reopening the Mint, which closed its doors in the summer and fall of 1797-1799, and again in 1802-1804.

Because the Congress had incorrectly valued U.S. coinage, its early coins were regularly exported by profiteers. For example, the silver dollars were shipped to the West Indies, where they were exchanged for the heavier Spanish dollars, which were then sent to the Mint for recoinage into more silver dollars. As a result of this flourishing trade, Director Boudinot suspended the coinage of silver dollars and gold eagles in 1804.

In 1807, John Reich was hired as an Assistant Engraver to Robert Scot. Essentially, Reich replaced Scot and redesigned and engraved every denomination of coin then being struck. Dissatisfied with his position and salary as just an Assistant, he resigned in 1817. Robert Scot continued as Chief Engraver until his death in 1823.

In 1816 fire struck the mill house and the adjoining building. The mill house was completely destroyed and was later replaced by a new brick building. Since the mint purchased its cent planchets from outside suppliers, this was the only coin that could be produced in 1816. After 1816, all of the mint's smelting operations were done elsewhere.

The End of the Mint

By the 1820's the mint had long outgrown its first building. Coins were still being struck by hand because the available modern machinery required more space than was available in the cramped quarters on Seventh Street. On March 2, 1829 Congress authorized the creation of a new mint. A site was chosen at the corner of Chestnut and Juniper streets, and the second mint opened in January, 1833. During that year, machinery was moved from the first mint building. When finally emptied, the buildings and property of the First United States Mint were sold at auction. They realized \$10,100.

Thus ended the pioneering era of coinage in the United States. The artifacts manufactured within the walls of the first Philadelphia Mint represent the first official production of coinage for circulation in the United States of America. These coins, like the coins of every civilization throughout history, remain as tangible reminders of a nearly-forgotten past. The building and its inhabitants are gone, but their handiwork remains. These little pieces of metal will carry on the memories of the first Philadelphia Mint.



Figure 1: The First Philadelphia Mint

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RED ROSE COIN CLUB ANNOUNCES 1990 MEDAL

Lancaster's Red Rose Coin Club announces that its 1990 medal -- 25th in its annual series -- will recognize the 100th anniversary of electrification of the trolley in Lancaster, Pa.

The one-ounce, 1½" diameter medals will be minted in solid silver (.999 Fine) and bronze.

The minting will not be completed until September, but



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An Introduction to the Coinage of Naxos

by

Kerry K. Wetterstrom

The earliest Greek colony in Sicily, Naxos was founded in 735 B.C. by Chalcidian colonists from Euboea at a site on the coast beneath Mt. Aetna. (Euboea is a large island located due east of central Greece).

Its coinage was probably the earliest in Sicily, beginning perhaps around 530 B.C.. Specimens of the first Naxian coinage are of extremely archaic style and more notable for their use of a developed reverse type; second, perhaps, only to Athens to develop such as opposed to the normal incuse type used on most reverses. Naxos' mother city and sister colonies in Sicily were still content with the incuse reverse.

Based on the Corcyrean standard (stater = 11.6 gms.), the didrachms of Naxos with the archaic head of Dionysos and a large bunch of grapes on the reverse are rare coins known from only eighteen obverse dies. Little is known of the early history of Naxos, but in 476 B.C. its citizens were forced to leave to Leontini (also on Sicily); victims of the tyrant Hieron of Syracuse's mass deportation policy. It should be noted that Naxos' first coinage was brought to an end when the city was incorporated into the "dominions of Hippocrates of Gela" circa 490 B.C., victimized by yet another tyrant.

In the year 461 B.C., the Naxian citizens returned home and their second type of coinage, more specifically the tetradrachm, achieved a rank as one of the great masterpieces of Greek coinage. Based on the Attic standard (tetradrachm = 17.2 gms.), the obverse of the Naxian tetradrachm showed the bearded head of Dionysos right, hair tied up behind and crowned with an ivy-wreath. The reverse showed a nude, ithyphallic Silenus with a horse's ear and tail seated facing, head turned left, lifting a kantharos to his mouth. (See illustration I. for obverse and reverse.).

This tetradrachm of the second type was struck from a single pair of dies with some 50 specimens extant. It has been convincingly attributed to the engraver of the unique Aetna tetradrachm now residing in the Brussels, Belgium national collection. Both works display strong affinities to an Athenian influence rather than the contemporaneous coinage of Sicily.



Second type of tetradrachm, circa 461 BC. Obverse is shown above, while the reverse of the coin is pictured below.



The head of Dionysos on the second type tetradrachm, god of the vine which was cultivated locally, was not representative of a "jolly spirit of wine and drunkenness" that he would be associated with later as the Roman god Bacchus. Dionysos was the god of religious possession and represented the life force, especially in its liquid manifestations - wine, milk, blood and semen (hence the ithyphallic Silenus). The cult of Dionysos was capable of cruelty and violence, and his ritual involved the dismemberment of living animals by frenzied female worshippers. In one of Dionysos' main myths he caused the same aforementioned fate to befall Pentheus, an opponent of Dionysiac worship, by his own mother.

The artwork involved in the Naxos tetradrachm is considered to be (especially the reverse portrait of Silenus): "A brilliant sculpture, remarkable both for the accuracy of the anatomical observation and for the complete mastery of foreshortening, scarcely paralleled in the contemporary die engraving." The second issue tetradrachm was also accompanied by a substantial number of drachmae and litrae.

Approximately thirty years later Naxos issued another tetradrachm (see illustration II. for similar type circa 413 BC), again from a single obverse die, but this time with a reverse figure of Silenus much softened and toned down artistically. This final coinage of Naxos, consisting of a few tetradrachms, didrachms and smaller denominations, lasted until the city was destroyed by Syracuse in 403 B.C..

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Numismatic Fine Arts, Inc. - Auction X - September 17 & 18, 1981. (Beverly Hills, California).



The obverse (showing head) and reverse of another type of tetradrachm from Naxos -- this one dating back to approximately 413 BC.

The author, Mr. Kerry K. Wetterstrom, is a principal member of the firm of Classical Numismatic Group, Inc., located in Quarryville, PA. Those interested in ancient coinage may contact Mr. Wetterstrom (or Victor England, Director of the firm) at P.O. Box 245, Quarryville, Pennsylvania 17566.

"OUTSTANDING NUMISMATIST" NAMED AT CENTRAL PA. SHOW

The Central Pa. Numismatic Association held a very successful Coin Show in Lancaster on April 7 and 8. The show featured 50 dealer tables and 28 cases of outstanding exhibits by 14 exhibitors.

EXHIBIT WINNERS

The Lewis Reagan Best of Show award went to John Eshbach for a display of Types of U.S. Gold (1834-1988). First Place winner was Gerald Kochel, who exhibited Liberty Seated Half Dimes (1837-1873). Second Place honors went to Herbert Espy for showing The History of the Yen. The Third Place winner was Philip Machonis for his exhibit of the Franklin Half (1948-1963).

JR. BEST & "PEOPLE'S CHOICE"

The Best of Show award for a Junior (under age 18) went to Jon Hebel for "Lancaster County and City Woods." Those attending the show voted for their favorite exhibit, and that "People's Choice Award" winner proved to be Ray Waltz, who exhibited Pa. Bank Notes. Exhibit Chairman James Hebel noted that all of the exhibits were of "ANA Quality."

OUTSTANDING NUMISMATIST AWARD

At a Saturday evening banquet (April 7), the highlight was the announcement of the 1990 "Outstanding Numismatist in Central Pennsylvania." There were six entries from area clubs this year -- all well qualified to be winners, according to Award Chairman Dick Duncan. The nominees were: James Templin, Lebanon Club; James Hebel, Lancaster's Red Rose Club; Pat College, Hershey Club; T. R. McIntosh, Harrisburg Club; Thil Mehl, York Club; and Ray Stoudt, Reading Club.

The winner received a traveling trophy (inscribed with winners' names dating back to 1966) plus a plaque to keep. These awards, presented by C.P.N.A. President Anthony Almond, went to Thil Mehl of the York Coin Club. Active in many area clubs for more than 20 years, Mr. Mehl has held every elective office in the York Club and has also been President of another nearby club. He's been very active as a speaker on numismatics as well as coin show organization and exhibiting. In fact, his exhibits have won almost 100 First Place or Best of Show awards at shows in the Central Pa. area.



The 1990 winner of the CPNA's Wagner Award -- for Outstanding Numismatist -- was Thil Mehl, York Coin Club (center). He's flanked by Anthony Almond, Sr., CPNA President (left) and Dick Duncan, Awards Chairman (right).

Just a few of the outstanding exhibits at the CPNA Show are pictured at the left. (Winners are listed on facing page.)

NEW DATE AND LOCATION FOR THE 1991 C.P.N.A. COIN SHOW

The Central Pa. Numismatic Assn. will hold its 1991 Coin Show at the Lantern Lodge Conference Center, 411 College Street, Myerstown, PA. The location is on Route #501 just north of Route #422.

The date is June 15 & 16, 1991.

Lodging, dining and refreshments are all within a few paces of the show. Full information will be sent to all dealers who attended the 1990 C.P.N.A. Show (Apr. 7 & 8) in Lancaster.

AWARD NOMINATIONS INVITED

The **Gilroy Roberts Award** is presented by PAN to deserving individuals who have made outstanding literary contributions in the field of numismatics.

The **Frank Gasparro Award** is presented by PAN to deserving individuals who have participated specifically in activities of PAN as well as in general numismatic activities.

If you wish to nominate an individual (who is a member of PAN) for either of these awards, the following information is required:

NOMINEE'S NAME _____ PHONE NO. _____

NOMINEE'S ADDRESS _____

Additional qualifications may be required, and the decision of the Awards Committee is final. Also, please include Your Name, Address and Phone Number (identifying the person making the nomination).

All entries must be received by the PAN Secretary by July 31, 1990.
Send to Awards Committee, c/o Patrick McBride, P.O. Box 144,
Pittsburgh, PA. 15230. Thank you.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Officers and Governors of the Pennsylvania Association of Numismatics will be elected at the club's 1990 Coin Show and Convention, October 5, 6 and 7 in Pittsburgh. Nominations are now being accepted for the following positions for 1991:

President

Regional Vice-Presidents

(Western, Central, Northeast, Southeast, and South Central)

Secretary

Recording Secretary

Treasurer

Board of Governors (3 members elected)

Chairman of the Board

Send nominations by **August 1, 1990** to PAN, P.O.Box 144, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15230. Thank you.

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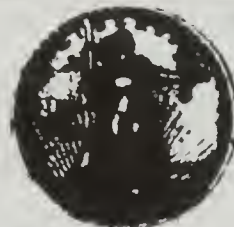
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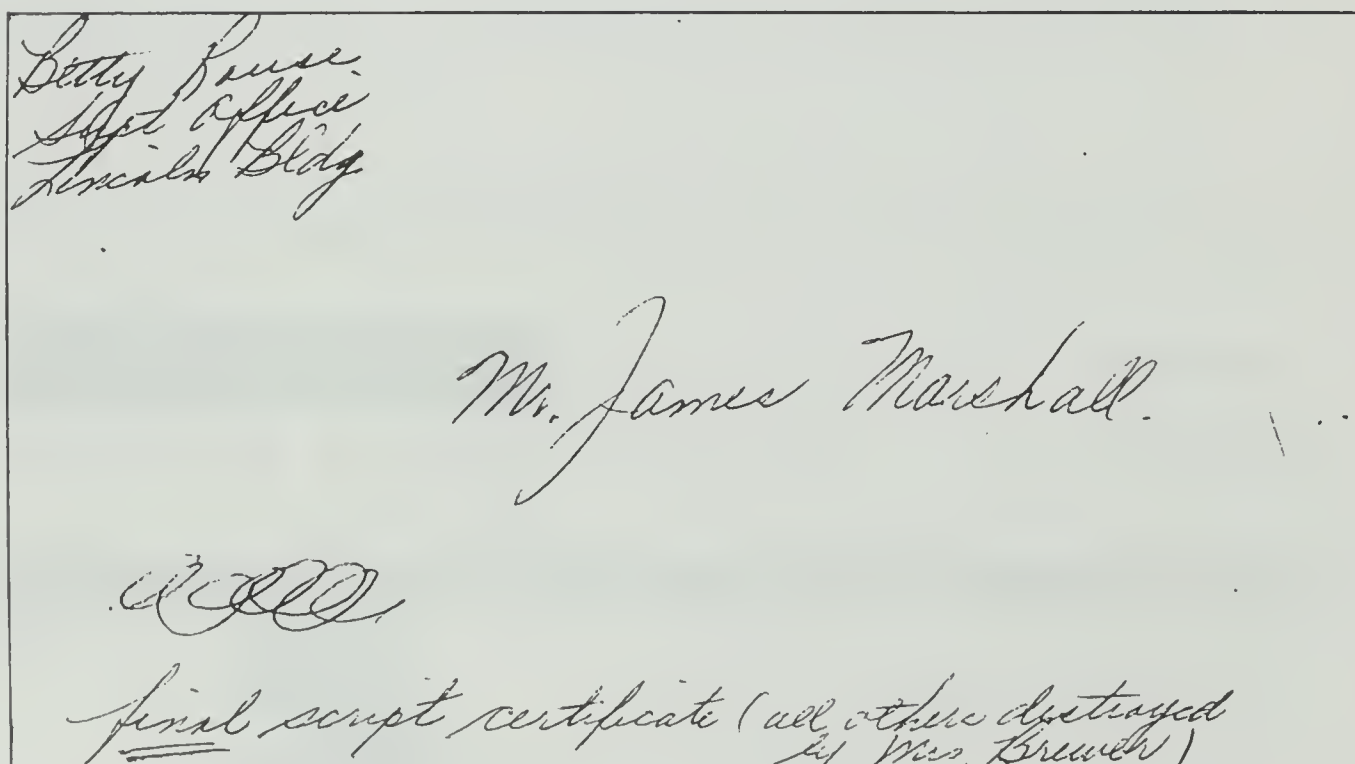
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DEPRESSION SCRIP FROM ELLWOOD CITY, PENNSYLVANIA
A Previously Unknown Issue

by Lawrence C. Korchnak
PAN LM-25, ANA LM-1928, NI LM-74

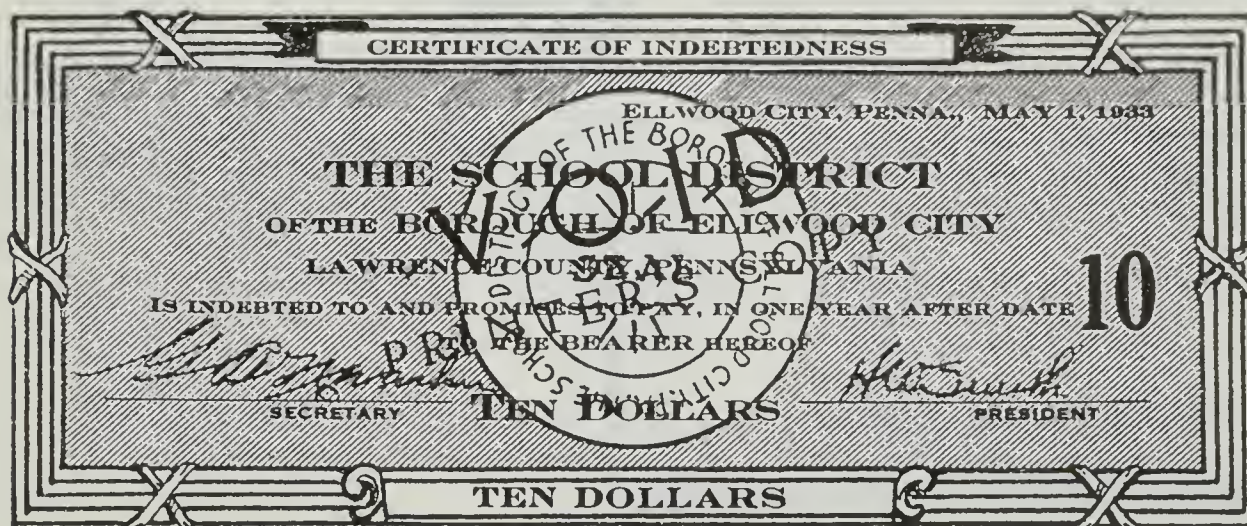
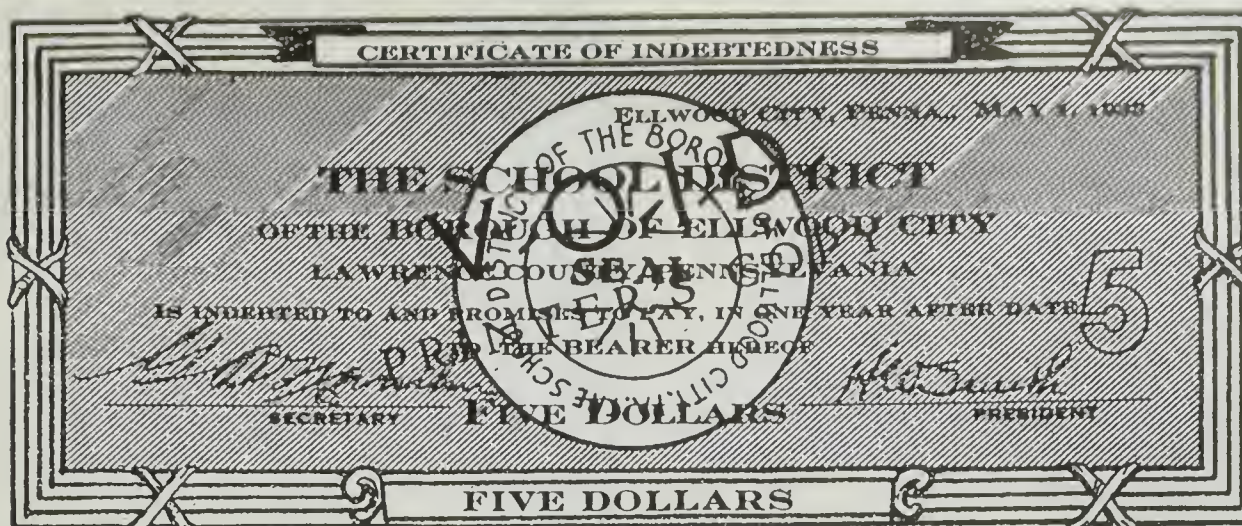
It pleases me to report in THE CLARION the existence of what may prove to be the only remaining examples of depression scrip issued by the Ellwood City School District, Ellwood City, Pa. Ellwood City is a small town that lies on the border of Beaver and Lawrence Counties about fifty miles northwest of the city of Pittsburgh.

Two denominations of notes were discovered in an envelope with the name of a Mr. James Marshall written on it. In the upper left corner was written: Betty Rouse, Supt. Office, Lincoln Bldg. Under Mr. Marshall's name was an indication that the envelope contained the "final script (sic) certificate (all others destroyed by Mrs. Brewer)."

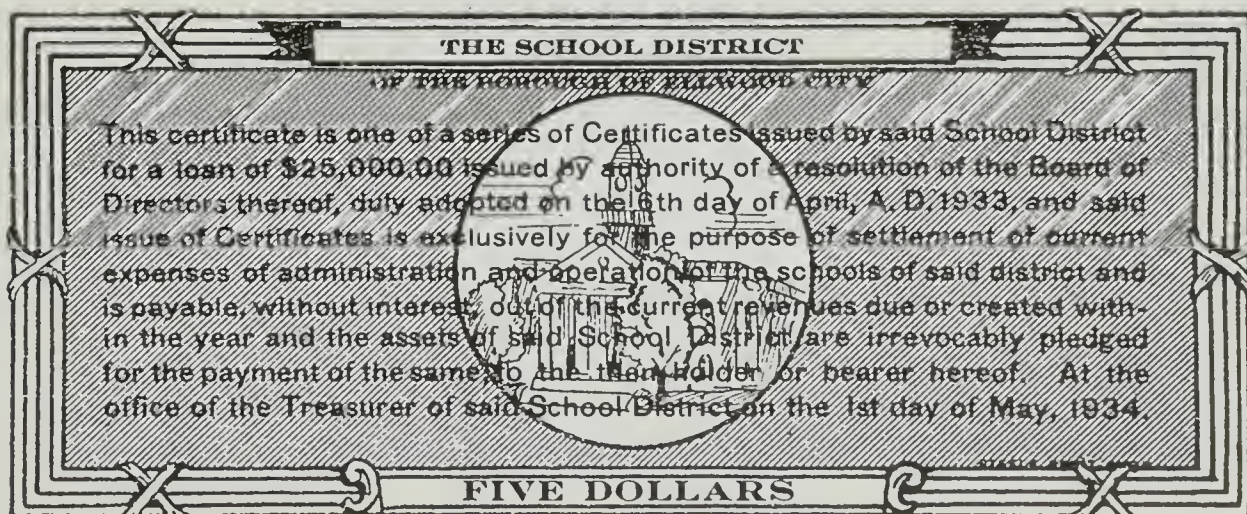


Envelope containing Ellwood City scrip. Note double underlining of word "final."

There were three five dollar notes and one ten dollar note in the sealed envelope. The notes are printed on heavy white paper. The five dollar notes are done in a blue background while the ten dollar note is printed with an orange background. The obverses are nearly identical except for the denomination and the style of numbers. Note the solid "10" and the hollow "5." The obverse of each note is overprinted in red: /V/O/I/D/, PRINTER'S COPY.



Ellwood City Scrip -- Obverse Designs (above). Their reverses (below) are identical except for background color (as described above) and the denomination.



Both notes are dated May 1, 1933 and an accompanying article from the local newspaper indicates that the city council voted 5-2 on June 3rd of the same year not to accept the scrip of the school district. The four notes are presently in the author's collection while further research is being conducted on their issue.

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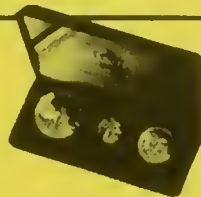
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1986-W \$5 Gold	170.00	170.00
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1984-PDS Silver Dollar set	160.00	—
1984-S Silver Dollar	—	20.00
1984-W \$10 Gold	240.00	240.00
1984-P \$10 Gold	—	390.00
1984-D \$10 Gold	—	390.00
1984-S \$10 Gold	—	245.00
1983/1984 3 pc. set w/w-gold and 2 Silver Dollars	275.00	265.00
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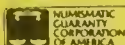
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